



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 03/29/2010

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
 MINUTES OF MEETING
 7:30PM O'Neill Room Community Safety Building
 3/29/10

ATTENDEES:

McGaffigan*		Bayer*	Phelps*	Dunn*
DeCoursey*	Connors*	Simmons*	Olszewski	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst*	Ronan*	
Ferrara*	Franclemont	Jones*	Deshler*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*	Carman*	Turkall*

* Indicates present

MINUTES of 3/24 approved as corrected. Unanimous

VISITORS: Superintendent of Schools Katherine Bodie, Schools' CFO Diane Johnson, SPED Director Mark Ryder, School Committee Members Joe Curro and Cindy Starks, and Catherine Carney, Annie Thompson, Vicki Ford, Kirsii Allison-Ampe

BUD 20 Education: Bodie Introduced her staff & the topics they planned to cover.

5 YR HISTORY: Johnson, using a screen projector & a handout reviewed revenue & expenses based on the reports made annually to the MDE. Grants and fees have been rising relative to appropriations. SPED expenditures have increased 43% for a population increase of 4% while regular education expenditures have increased 4% for a population increase of 6%. Employee benefits have increased 40%.

SPED Ryder, also using a screen projector & a handout, discussed the SPED program. The SPED budget is about 1/3 of the total budget. The schools have seen an increase in the number of in-district students. Not only is this less expensive than out-of-district placement, but the students go to school with friends who may be regular students, have a richer program, and avoid a long commute. Arlington still has more out-of-district SPED students (14%) than the state average (6%). Ryder thinks, given continued investment, Arlington will approach the state average in a few years.

METCO Bodie described several ways to express the cost of this program. The costs unique to the program are \$40k. The per pupil costs are about \$400k. A FinCom member estimated the cost at \$1m. Curro said he is responsible for a SC vote to reduce METCO expenses \$125k which he said is the size of the state revenue reduction for METCO.

ENROLLMENT & CAPACITY: Bodie, using a handout, showed enrollment increase figures from 1999 to 2010 averaging about 68/yr. She showed projections of 92/yr. She showed elementary excess capacity totaling 10 based on present enrollment and design capacity but with wide disparity between schools.

BUDGET: Johnson described her approach to determining a level service budget and then described the reductions required to balance this budget. Members were unable to understand where the large increase for level service came from and asked for a comparison to FY10 figures. She will try to provide this in 2 wks, recognizing that Town Meeting is likely to want it too.

COMMITTEE:

All should take ethics training. Gloria to keep a record.

A free ATFC workshop is available on pension funding on 4/29 5:30 to 7:00PM in Lancaster. Register at MMA website.

The agenda for past & future meetings may be found at www.arlingtonma.gov/fincom

RESERVE FUND BALANCE \$508,915.92

Peter B Howard 3/30/10 revised 3/31/10

cc FinCom Members, Selectmen, Library File, Town Web Site, FinCom Web Site

VOTE SUMMARY – Articles

# 2/10	#	#	Title	Date Heard	Date Voted	Status (Unlisted votes were unanimous)
20			PAYT	3/17		
24			Tax Checkoff for CoA Transportation	2/24	3/1	No report
26			Double Pole Home Rule Legis			request Manager
28			Pension Liability Funding			request Manager
29			Transfer Crosby	3/17		
30			Transfer Parmenter	3/17		
31			Sell Crosby	3/17		
32			Sell Parmenter	3/17		
33			Accept Law Consolidate Twn & Sch Admin			Reorg Com in April
34			Consolidate Twn & Sch Admin			Reorg Com in April
36			Dog Control	3/1		
37			Compensation of Selectmen	3/17		
39			Additional Warrant Article notification	3/1		No report
47			Collective Bargaining	3/17	3/17	No action
48			Future Collective Bargaining			
49			Salary Adjustment Elected Officials	3/17	3/17	No action
50			Positions Reclassification			
51			Vacation Time Bylaw	3/17	3/17	Support
52			Budgets	NA	NA	See next page
53			Capital Budget	3/15	3/15	\$7,959,673
54			Rescind authority to borrow			
55			Sewers	3/17	3/17	\$650,000

56		Water	3/17	3/17	\$1,300,000
57		Minuteman Tech	2/22		
58		Minutean Tech Bond Authorization	2/22, 3/17		
59		Committees & Commissions	2/17, 3/1	2/17, 3/1	\$14,760, \$5000 for ARC
60		Celebrations			
61		Misc Appropriations	3/17	3/17	\$13,337
62		Scholarship Fund Expenses			
63		Pension Adjustment			
64		Safe Routes to School	3/17	3/17	\$0 funded by grant
65		Harry Barber Service Program	2/24		HumServ SubCom
66		Minuteman Senior Services	2/24		HumServ SubCom
67		Social Worker	2/24		HumServ SubCom
68		Traffic Supervisors	2/24	2/24	No action
69		Water Bodies	2/17	2/17	\$15,000
70		Uncle Sam	2/17	3/1	No action
71		Restore Trees	2/17	3/1, 3/17	No action, Desheler comment
72		Local Option Taxes			
73		OPEB			
74		Tip Fee Stab Fund			
75		Transfer of Cemetery Funds			
76		Overlay Reserve			
77		Stabilization Fund			
78		Free Cash			
STM3		FY10 Appropriations & Budget Transfers	3/17	3/17	No action
STM4		Fire Station Renovation	3/15	3/15	\$4,950,000
STM5		Community Safety Renovations	3/15		

VOTE SUMMARY-Budgets

#	Title	Date Heard	Date Voted	Amount	Vote Unlisted votes were unanimous
1	FinCom	2/22	2/22	10,988	
2	Board of Selectmen	3/24	3/24	359,633	
3	Town Manager	3/8	3/8	417,916	
4	Personnel	3/15	3/15	\$177,896	
5	Information Technology	2/22	2/22	491,878	
6	Comptroller	2/22	2/22	399,044	
7	Treasurer				

8	Postage				
9	Assessors				
10	Legal	3/1	3/1	409,316	
11	Town Clerk	3/8	3/8	234,810	
12	Registrar of Voters	3/8	3/8	59,873	
13	Parking				
14	Planning	3/8	3/8	231,352	
15	Redevelopment Board	3/8	3/8	270,454	
16	Zoning Board of Appeals	2/24	2/24	23,890	
17	Public Works	3/24	3/24	6,595,734	
17g	Street Lights	3/8	3/8	418,893	
18a	Community Safety Admin	3/24	3/24	386,246	
18b	Police	3/24	3/24	5,687,196	
18c	Fire	3/1	3/1	5,463,081	15-1
18d	Support	3/24	3/24	708,384	
19	Inspections	3/8	3/8	367,894	
20	Education	3/29			
21	Library	2/22	2/22	1,888,852	12-1
22a	Health & Human Services	3/24	3/24	287,436	
22b	Veterans	3/15	3/15	326,568	
22c	COA	3/15	3/24	148,928	
23	Retirement	3/8	3/8	7,003,065	
24	Insurance				
25	Reserve Fund				=
W&S EF					
Rec EF					
Rnk EF					
COA EF		3/24			
Youth EF		3/24			